

# Caribbean Biodiversity Fund *and the* Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture

Sep 17, 2025



# The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)

## MISSION

To ensure continuous funding for conservation and sustainable development in the Caribbean.

## VISION

A Caribbean region where both its natural environment and people thrive.

## CORE VALUES



Respect Integrity Creativity Excellence



The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund is a regional Conservation Trust Fund that provides sustainable financing for projects within the Caribbean region to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends.



# CBF Theory of Change



## The Climate Change Program

Sustainably manage EbA supporting marine and coastal zone habitats, including rehabilitating key high biodiversity ecosystems and incorporating social and economic resilience to climate change



## The Conservation Program

Stronger CSFA with increased and sustainable funding for priority conservation actions in the region



## The Nature-Based Economies Program

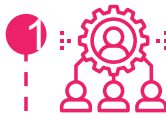
Contribute to the reduction of marine litter in the Caribbean by promoting circular economy among public and private sectors through the Circular Economy Facility



## Objectives Program Level



## Development Priorities /KPIs



Strengthen Governance



Build Capacity



Financial Stability & Growth



Global Impact



## CBF Objectives

1

CBF grantees and beneficiaries geographically cover more of the Caribbean region

2

CBF is an effective institution with exemplary practice standards



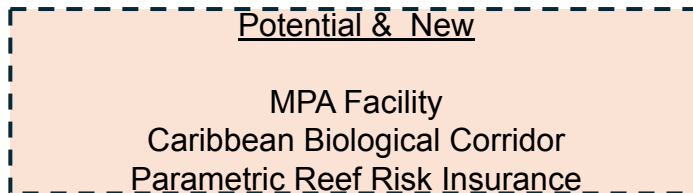
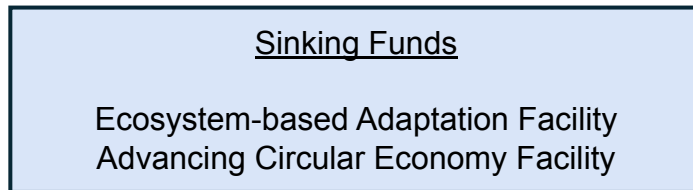
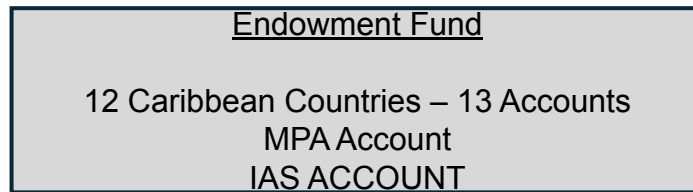
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CBF provides sustainable financing opportunities for the Caribbean region



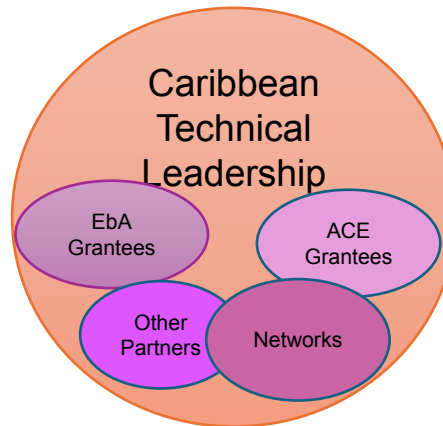
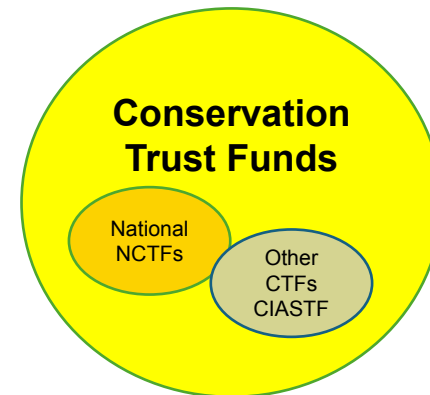


## CBF Finance Mechanisms



## CBF Beneficiaries

LOCAL  
NATIONAL  
REGIONAL



## CBF End Users

LOCAL  
NATIONAL  
REGIONAL



# NEW REPORT

## How Conservation Trust Funds Are Driving Progress for Nature

For generations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have been the stewards of their lands and waters, dedicated to conserving and protecting their environments, but they often face obstacles such as limited financial support. To bridge this gap, the GEF has helped build national institutional capacity through the establishment of and support to Conservation Trust Funds. As a result, CTFs are now vital to countries' work to meet the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.




### WHAT ARE CTFs?

CTFs are legally independent institutions designed to support sustained financing for environmental initiatives, in alignment with government objectives. These funds come in various forms including **trusts, foundations, non-profits, and national associations.**

They mobilize:

-  international donors
-  national governments
-  the private sector

And provide grants to:

-  national parks agencies
-  Indigenous groups
-  local communities

This approach helps countries accelerate their progress to meet global environmental goals. CTFs are important partners for governments working to fulfill national, regional, and international commitments

A joint publication by the Global Environment Facility,  
RedLAC, CAFÉ, AP-NET, and Enduring Earth

### BENEFITS OF CTFs

- ✓ Stability throughout political transitions and economic cycles
- ✓ Institutional memory and expertise about past successes and failures
- ✓ Steady relationships with donors, civil society, and local communities

### GEF SUPPORT

The GEF has provided more than \$320 million to 60 CTFs over the past three decades. Most have used this initial capitalization to leverage far more funding over the years, including from other international donors such as: the GCF, the Adaptation Fund, KfW, AFD, FFEM, USAID, Norad, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Walton Family Foundation, David & Lucile Packard Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, and World Wildlife Fund.



# Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture

Continuous Conservation  
Funding for the Caribbean



USD100m endowment currently  
making payments to 10 Caribbean  
countries through Conservation Trust  
Funds (CTFs)

**CBF  
Endowment**

**CTF  
Development**

With and without CBF - capacity  
development projects, network support,  
and direct projects with an some, on all  
CTFs as applicable

**CBF Institution**

managing 3 programs focussed on key  
conservation matters meeting  
Conservation Trust Fund Practice  
Standards and a range of donor  
requirements

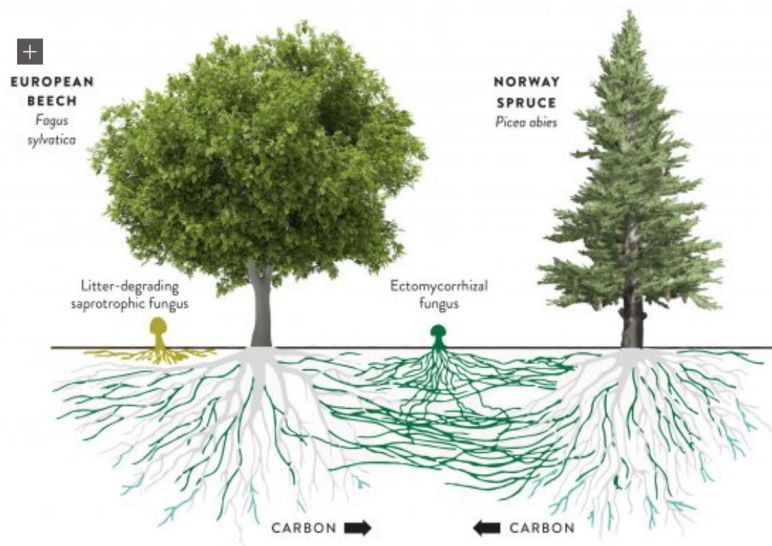


**Caribbean  
CTFs**

Independent national organisations  
providing local funding through CBF  
and others

# CTFs Move Global Funding to the Ground

## Capillarity



- CTFs disbursed over \$2b between 2009-2018
- CTFs know their countries/regions
- Can predict and prepare for major risks faster than outsiders
- Agile administrative processes
- Execute through proven local partners
- Pool funds for SIDS

# Benefits of the Caribbean Sustainable Financial Architecture

- A flexible structure
- Independence
- Adherence to internationally recognized standards for conservation funds
- Economies of scale
- Convenience for donors and partners interested in regional or multi-country impact
- Multiple financial mechanisms to generate stable funding streams for the region
- Capacity building on sustainable finance and strengthening of NGOs and community-based organizations
- Multi-stakeholder governance for decision-making around a shared agenda
- Support countries to meet national and international commitments



# IAS Management Cascade

## ☐ Prevention

- ✓ Most cost-effective: pathway management
- ✓ Hard to sell to policymakers
- ✓ Continued absence of problem does not win votes!

## ☐ Early detection and rapid response

- ✓ Frequently too slow

## ☐ Eradication and Containment

- ✓ Eradication requires last propagules to be eliminated

## ☐ Impact Mitigation

- ✓ Population control
- ✓ Continuous cost
- ✓ Surveillance & maintenance following restoration is critical to prevent reintroductions

=> Regional, independent finance mechanism needed



Photo: Ulrike Krauss

# A Case for a Caribbean IAS Trust Fund

## ☐ Gardier *et al.* – CABI OECS project



- ✓ Study to identify sustainable financing mechanisms to combat the IAS challenge in the Caribbean
- ✓ Prevention requires structured, regional approach
- ✓ Two options analyzed:
  - Trust Fund
  - Policy Options

## ☐ Trust Fund Selling Points

- ✓ Regional functional infrastructure in place: CBF and CSFA  
To serve as **Fund Manager**
- ✓ Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC):  
Practice Standards defined by the Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA)
- ✓ Policy options for mainstreaming support
- ✓ **CABI**: almost 80 years experience managing IAS in the Caribbean  
To serve as **Secretariat**



Photo: iStock

# CONTACT US

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RESOURCES: [Environmental and Social Policy](#) [Gender Policy](#) [Grievance Mechanism](#)

